



Applicant(s): Minotti, et al.

Examiner: Khare, D.

Application No.: 09/954,953

Group Art Unit: 1623

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Dated: April 23, 2003

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Dated: April 23, 2003

Signature: Barbara Kemmlei

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231-0001

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2003, a reply to which is due April 23, 2003. In view of the remarks below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

## **REMARKS**

## Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Specifically, the Examiner states that Claims 15-17 are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

## Applicants' Response to Rejection of Claims 1-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,908,835 ("Bissery"). The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to one